IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An object which, in its outer surface contains a color-forming composition which comprises:

a. a solvent-absorbing material;

b. a color former compounded with said solvent-absorbing material, wherein said color former functions as a metal chelating agent; and

c. metal ions capable of forming a chelate complex with said color former as said solvent-absorbing material absorbs said solvent, resulting in a detectable color change of said composition.

2. (Original) The object of claim 1 wherein said solvent absorbing material is a polymer

3. (Original) The object of claim 2 wherein the solvent absorbing material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene acrylic acid, polyethylene methacrylic acid, and copolymers thereof; terpolymers of polyethylene, an acrylic acid and an acrylate; polyurethane; poly-(acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene); polyvinylchloride; polypropylene copolymer; polystyrene; polyurethane; silicon elastomers; organic rubbers; and combinations thereof.

4. (Original) The object of claim 3 wherein said solvent absorbing material is polyethylene methacrylic acid, polyethylene acrylic acid, and mixtures thereof.

5. (Original) The object of claim 4 wherein said color-forming composition exhibits thermoxidative stability at compounding temperatures of at least about 90^0C.

6. (Original) The object of claim 5 wherein said color-forming composition exhibits thermoxidative stability at extrusion temperatures of at least about 180^0C.

7. (Original) The object of claim 2 wherein said solvent absorbing material is a paint.

8. (Original) The object of claim 3 wherein said metal ions are selected from the group consisting of Na^+, Li^+, Zn^{2+}, Fe^{3+}, Fe^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, Li^+, Ti^{2+}, Ti^{4+}, Mn^{2+}, and combinations thereof.

9. (Original) The object of claim 8 wherein said metal ion is Zn^{2+}.

10. (Original) The object of claim 8 wherein said metal ions are contained in said solvent absorbing material.

11. (Original) The object of claim 9 wherein the metal ions are provided by zinc acetate.

12. (Original) The object of claim 11 wherein the zinc acetate is present from about 0.1% to about 2.5%, by weight of the composition.

13. (Original) The object of claim 8 wherein said color former produces a permanent color change which is not reversed by removal of said solvent from said solvent absorbing material.

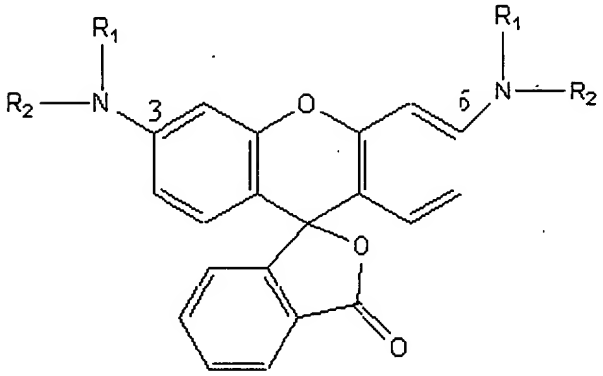
14. (Original) The object of claim 13 wherein said color former is a 1,2-dihydroxybenzene derivative.

15. (Original) The object of claim 14 wherein said color former is selected from the group consisting of 1,2-dihydroxybenzene, 3-methylcatechol, 4-methylcatechol, 4,5-dihydroxy-1,3-benzenedisulfonic acid disodium salt and 1,2,3-trihydroxybenzene and mixtures thereof.

16. (Original) The object of claim 15 wherein said color former is 1,2-dihydroxybenzene and is present in the composition at from about 0.1% to about 2.5%, by weight

17. (Original) The object of claim 8 wherein the color change is reversible when the absorbed solvent is removed from said outer covering.

18. (Original) The object of claim 17 wherein said color former is a substituted fluoran derivative with at least one amine group at positions 3 and 6.



19. (Original) The object of claim 18 wherein R1 and R2 of the amine group are alkyl groups containing from one to six carbon atoms independently.

20. (Original) The object of claim 19 wherein said color former is selected from the group consisting of 3-diethylamino-6-methyl-fluoran, 3-dimethylamino-6-methyl-fluoran, 3-dimethylamino-6-methyl-7-anilinofluoran, 2-anilino-3-methyl-6-dibutylaminofluoran, 3-diethylamino-6-methyl-7-anilinofluoran, and 2-anilino-3-methyl-6-diethylaminofluoran and mixtures thereof.

21. (Original) The object of claim 18 wherein a fixative is added to retard reversal of said color change and wherein said fixative is present at from about 0.1% to about 2.5%, by weight.

22. (Original) The object of claim 21 wherein the fixative is a phenolic-based compound.

23. (Original) The object of claim 22 wherein the fixative is salicylic acid or bisphenol-A, the acetate derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof.

24. (Original) The object of claim 1 wherein the object is a golf ball.

25. (Original) The object of claim 25 wherein said solvent-absorbing material is polyethylene methacrylic acid; said color-former is from about 0.1% to about 2.5%, by weight of a 1,2-dihydroxybenzene derivative; and said metal ion is Zn^{2+}, in an amount of from about 0.1% to about 2.5%, by weight.

Claims 26 -44. (Cancelled)